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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,549	03/15/2004	Thomas J. Ribarich	IR-2459 (2-3924)	9792
7590	03/24/2006		EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN 1180 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036-8403			HAN, YOUNGHUIE JESSICA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2838	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

ND

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/800,549	RIBARICH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Y. J. Han	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/27/05.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4-12 and 14-26 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 4-12 and 14-19 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 20-26 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/31/05
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
3. Claims 1 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht et al (5,654,881) in view of Hwang (5,894,243).

Albrecht et al discloses a power converter for delivering power to a load, comprising: a single stage buck-boost converter (10) for converting a rectified input signal; a switching output stage (10b) for converting the DC signal to a switched signal delivered to the load; and a controller (22) coupled to the buck-boost converter and the output stage for controlling the buck-boost converter and the output stage; wherein the buck-boost converter includes a switch (18-1,18-2) driven by the controller; drive signals (G1, G2) provided from the controller to the switch, the drive signals being operable to switch the switch to draw an input current

substantially in phase (see figure 2) with an input voltage; a feedback signal (22a) from the buck-boost converter to the controller for contributing to determining when the switch is switched. “For power factor correction applications, this push-pull converter, by transitioning between the Boost and Buck operating modes, is able to shape the input current.” The reference further discloses a circuitry for maintaining the output power constant by receiving the indication of output power and responsively controlling the drive signals provided to the switch to control an on-time of the switch. See column 3, lines 57 thru column 4, line 11. Albrecht et al, however, does not disclose an integrated controller. Hwang teaches clearly that the use of an integrated circuit for controlling the buck converter or boost converter is well known in the art. See Fig. 4 and the integrated circuit 100. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ the integrated circuit in Albrecht et al, as taught by Hwang, to obtain the claimed invention for the purpose of achieving compact power converter package.

4. Claims 20-22 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht et al (5,654,881) in view of Hwang (5,894,243) as applied to claims 1-3, 13, and 23 above, and further in view of acknowledged prior art.

Albrecht et al, as modified by Hwang, discloses the invention substantially as claimed but does not disclose a switching full-bridge, an HID lamp, and a power factor correction circuit. The acknowledged prior art clearly teaches that use of such features is well known in the art (see Background of the Invention section and figure 5 which show all features). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ such features of the

acknowledged prior art in Albrecht et al, as modified by Hwang, to obtain the claimed invention for the purpose of attaining a high efficiency.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The support for the newly added feature of "circuitry for maintaining said output power constant by receiving said indication of output power and responsively controlling said drive signals provided to said switch to control an on-time of said switch" in claims 1, 20, and 24 has been addressed above by modifying the 103 rejection. As mentioned-above, Albrecht et al discloses support for such feature at col. 3, line 57 thru col. 4, line 11.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 4-12 and 14-19 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

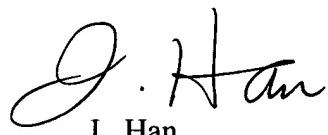
7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Y. J. Han whose telephone number is 571-272-2078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:30am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl Easthom can be reached on 571-272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



J. Han  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2838